Please amend the specification as follows:

The paragraph beginning on page 4, line 23:

A cubic liquid crystalline phase precursor comprising an amphiphile (A) capable of forming a cubic liquid crystalline phase, an optional solvent (B), and an additive (C) selected from the group consisting of an anchor, a tether, and combinations thereof, and wherein (A), (B), and (C) are present in mass fractions relative to each other such that $1.0 = a + b + c$, wherein a is the mass fraction of (A), b is the mass fraction 0f (B), and c is the mass fraction of (C), and wherein $1.0 > a > 0$, $1.0 > b \geq 0$, $1.0 > c > 0$; with the proviso that a, b, and c do not fall within a cubic liquid crystalline phase region on a phase diagram representing phase behavior of (A), (B), and (C).

The paragraph beginning on page 7, line 27:

"Tether" means a molecule larger than an anchor, including modified polymers, proteins, and enzymes that have a lipid-soluble fragment and a water-soluble fragment. Without wishing to be bound by theory, it is thought that the role of the lipid-soluble fragment is to dissolve into the bilayers of the cubic phase, and the role of the water-soluble fragment might be to provide a specific (or tailored) interaction such as an electrostatic or hydrogen bond with the materials of interest. ~~Tethers~~.

The paragraph beginning on page 15, line 16:

FIG. 1 represents ternary phase diagram 100 of a ternary system of (A) monoolein 103, (B) water 106, and (C) potassiumoleate 109. Single phases (other than cubic phases) can be used as a precursor. Compositions falling in single-phase regions such as the lamellar phase region 112 and the L1 phase region 113 are suitable precursors. Compositions falling in a multiple-phase region 114 where cubic phase does not form are also suitable precursors. Compositions that do not fall in the Pn3m cubic phase region 115 and Ia3d cubic phase region 118 are suitable precursors as discussed in Luzzati et al., *J. Mol. Biol.*, 229, 540-551 (1993).

The paragraph beginning on page 17, line 20:

Functionalization with anchors and tethers can provide an ability to modify the interior properties of functionalized cubic liquid crystalline phase materials allowing delivery and controlled release of active ingredients. FIG. 2 illustrates a negatively charged material201 (e.g., ionized Ketoprofen)anchored into the bicontinuous cubic liquid crystal 200 functionalized with di(canola ethyl ester) dimethylamine chloride (DEEDAC) 202. This interaction can increase the level of loading and enhances the release profile of the material. In one embodiment of the invention, the precursors, gels, dispersions, and particles can be used for topical delivery of pharmaceutical and/or cosmetic active ingredients such as Ketoprofen and those described above.